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PAGE 01 CARACA 02349 021635Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00
	DS-00	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01
	P-01	RP-10	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SSC-01	SSO-00
	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	DTC-01	/058W	
-----155D91 021636Z /38							

O 021634Z MAR 92 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8784
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 02349

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, MASS, VE
SUBJECT: MORNING OF MARCH 2: NO NEW COUP RUMORS

REF: CARACAS 2337

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 2, CARACAS SHOWS NO SIGNS OF THE COUP RUMORS THAT SWEPT THE CITY DURING THE NIGHT OF MARCH 1-2. AS IS TO BE EXPECTED GIVEN THE CARNIVAL HOLIDAY, THE STREETS ARE ALMOST DESERTED. WE HAVE NO NEW INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC SOURCES OR FROM OUR CONTACTS TO
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PAGE 02 CARACA 02349 021635Z
INDICATE THAT THERE IS ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE GOV.

3. PRESIDENT PEREZ (CAP) HAS BEGUN TO PICK UP SUPPORT ON THE ISSUE OF HIS RESIGNATION. ACCION DEMOCRATICA AND TWO PROMINENT COPEI POLITICIANS ARE QUOTED IN THE MARCH 2 PRESS (SEPTTEL) AS REJECTING DEMANDS FOR IT. LUIS PINERUA, WHO WAS REPORTED IN REF TO BE IN A LATE NIGHT MEETING WITH CAP, TOLD REPORTERS (EITHER AFTER OR DURING THE MEETING) THAT "IN MY JUDGEMENT NO ONE CAN HANDLE THE (CURRENT) SITUATION BETTER THAN PRESIDENT PEREZ."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 08 AUG 2006 200503206

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4. AS NEARLY AS WE CAN TELL AT THIS TIME, THE COUP RUMORS OF LAST NIGHT WERE JUST THAT -- A SCARE PRODUCED BY THE TREMENDOUS STRAINS CURRENTLY AFFECTING VENEZUELAN POLITICS. LIKE THE FEB. 4 COUP ATTEMPT, THE RUMORS CONTRIBUTE TO AN ATMOSPHERE OF CRISIS THAT HAS BECOME THE CENTRAL FACT OF VENEZUELAN POLITICAL LIFE.
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